

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The applicants would like to thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1 to 5 and 13 to 18.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 to 20 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are amended to provide proper antecedent bases. In addition, claim 3 is amended to replace "aqueous solutions" with "aqueous solution"; claim 8 is amended to correct the spelling of the word "polyvalent"; claim 11 is amended to clarify that the aqueous solution from which the surfactant is recovered, and/or the recycle solution have a temperature in the range 5°C to 40°C; and claim 12 is amended to amend "feeding aqueous solution to "aqueous solution" and "feed gas" to "gaseous stream". Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification and claims as filed (see, for example, pages 11 and 12). Therefore, the applicants believe that no new matter is added.

The applicants respectfully request entry of this response pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116, in that if the examiner maintains the claim rejections, this response places the claims in better form for appeal. This response is filed within the shortened statutory period for response, no fee due. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Patentability Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 –

Claims 6 to 12, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the preceding claim amendments and succeeding remarks.

Claims 6 to 12, 19 and 20 are amended to provide the proper antecedent basis. In particular:

- claim 6 is now dependent on claim 3;
- claim 7 is also now dependent on claim 3;

- claim 8 is now dependent on claim 6; and
- claim 12 is now dependent on claim 3.

The applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, claims 6 to 12, 19 and 20 are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this response is not timely filed, the applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00109.

Respectfully submitted,

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